

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A surgical instrument for extracting a prosthetic device, comprising:
a distal portion transitionable from an insertion configuration to an extraction configuration, wherein the insertion configuration is adapted for displacement along a portion of a prosthetic device, and the extraction configuration is adapted for engaging and extracting the prosthetic device; and
a proximal portion connected to the distal portion.
2. The surgical instrument of claim 1 wherein the distal portion comprises at least one engaging member.
3. The surgical instrument of claim 2 wherein the at least one engaging member comprises a flexible material that is capable of being transferred from the insertion configuration to the extraction configuration.
4. The surgical instrument of claim 2 wherein the at least one engaging member comprises stainless steel.
5. The surgical instrument of claim 2 wherein the at least one engaging member is secured to a mounting block.
6. The surgical instrument of claim 2 wherein each of the at least one engaging member comprises at least one extraction prong.
7. The surgical instrument of claim 6 wherein each of the at least one extraction prong comprises a transverse flange.
8. The surgical instrument of claim 7 wherein the transverse flange comprises a hook-shaped configuration.

9. The instrument of claim 7 wherein at least two of the transverse flanges extend in generally opposite directions.
10. The instrument of claim 7 wherein at least two of the transverse flanges extend in generally parallel directions.
11. An instrument for surgical extraction, comprising:
 - at least one extraction prong wherein the at least one extraction prong comprises a transverse flange; and
 - a mounting portion wherein the at least one extraction prong is secured to the mounting portion.
12. The instrument of claim 11 wherein the at least one extraction prong is transitionable from an insertion configuration to an extraction configuration.
13. The instrument of claim 11 wherein the transverse flange defines a reduced transverse profile for an insertion configuration.
14. The surgical instrument of claim 11 wherein the transverse flange comprises a hook-shaped configuration.
15. The surgical instrument of claim 11 wherein the at least one extraction prong comprises a flexible material that is capable of being transferred from an insertion configuration to an extraction configuration.
16. The surgical instrument of claim 11 wherein the at least one extraction prong comprises stainless steel.
17. The surgical instrument of claim 11 wherein the mounting portion comprises a mounting block.

18. A method for surgical extraction, comprising:
 - inserting a surgical instrument having a distal portion transitionable from an insertion configuration to an extraction configuration;
 - transitioning the distal portion to the extraction configuration;
 - engaging the distal portion with an implant; and
 - exerting an extraction force to extract the implant.
19. The method of 18 further comprising displacing the distal portion along at least a portion of the implant.
20. The method of 18 wherein the distal portion comprises at least one transverse flange.